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CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT PILOT CLAIMS C.I.A. BACKED ILLEGAL EXPORT

CPYRGHT

HARRY KING: "Whether the Central Intelligence Agency was involved in the sale of obsolete bombers to Portugal may come out this week in a federal trial at Buffalo, New York. W-Newsman Jim West has a special report on that story:"

WEST: "The Government contends that seven of the World War Two vintage bombers were flown to Portugal without export licenses or permission of our State Department. Over the past three weeks of trial the court has been told that the bombers were to be used in putting down a communist-inspired takeover of Portugese colonies in Africa.

"One of the bombers, reportedly, flew through the restricted area over the White House on its flight overseas.

"The government claims that three men conspired to export the plane illegally to Portugal between May and September of 1965. Two of the alleged conspirator, former Royal Air Force pilot John Hawke(?), now of Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and 58-year-old French Count(?) and businessman, Henri de Monterand(?) are on trial. The third man under indictment, 45-year-old Gregory Vord(?) has fled the United States and is believed to be somewhere in the West Indies.

"According to government testimony, Hawke flew the planes, and Vord was associated with one of two firms based in Tuscon, Arizona, responsible for supplying the aircraft. The government claims twenty bombers were to be purchased, but that only seven actually reached Portugal. Hawke claims that the C.I.A. backed the entire venture, but that the United States now is unwilling to be revealed as siding with Portugal in the suppression of rebellious colonists in Angola and Mozambique. The C.I.A. has involved any involvement."